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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed August 24, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues:

Regarding to claims 6 and 7, the Office Action seems to assert that "instruction operation means" recited in claim 6 corresponds to "application 104" of Lo. Applicants disagree because the "application 104" is a program which is executed on the client computer 102, and is not executed by the scanner server 130. Regarding to claims 14, 15, 27 and 29, the Office Action states that "instruction operation means" recited in claims 14 and 27 corresponds to "application 104" of Lo and "input means" recited in claims 14 and 27 also corresponds to "TWAIN driver 136" of Lo. However, for the same reasons set forth above, Applicants disagree.

Notice that the software utilized by the present invention is installed on both the client computer and the scanner server computer, column 13, lines 45-47. It is clear that the application program reads on the instruction operation means because it is installed on both the client and the server computers. And further the application 104 works in conjunction with the scan task software 134 which is executed in the scanner server 130.

The Office Action also states that the "input means" recited in claim 6 corresponds to "TWAIN driver 136" of Lo. Applicants disagree with this point as well. Firstly, there is no description related to TWAIN driver in the portion pointed out by the Office Action. The box "462" of Fig. 8B merely describes that the client computer 102 transmits an open-session command to the scanner server 130, but the portion bears no relation to TWAIN driver. The box "472" of Fig. 8C of Lo pointed out by the Office Action is related to displaying on a screen of the client computer 102 by the virtual TWAIN driver 106, but bears no relation to the display of the scanner server 103. Furthermore, there is no description that the scanner server 130 displays a pattern received from the client computer 102. The box "476" of Fig. 8C merely discloses that the set scanner parameters command and the parameter are transmitted from the client computer to the scanner server 130, but there is no relation to the TWAIN driver 136 in the scanner server 130. The box "482" of Fig. 8D merely discloses that the client computer 102 transmits a get file command to the scanner server 130. Furthermore, there is no description of outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user, to the control apparatus.

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However, the TWAIN driver 136 of the scanner server computer and the virtual TWAIN driver of the client computer 102 are used to implement the functions described in the flowchart for the scan to application aspect of the invention illustrated in Fig. 8A-8E as seen in column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7, lines 50-55. In step 462 data (open session command) is sent from the client computer to the scanner server, in step 472 a pattern for instruction operation is displayed (displays the scanner parameters at the client computer using the virtual TWAIN device driver and allows the user to edit the scanner parameters at the client computer, Fig. 10 illustrates an image of a computer screen which allows the user to set the parameters of the scanner, column 15, lines 42-45), The TWAIN driver is considered the input means because it allows the application program and the hardware to communicate with one another and allows in step 476, an input by the user is enabled (newly set scanner parameters as attached data, column 15, lines 64-66) and further outputs the users input (read file command for Fig. 7K) which is used to transmit image data from the scanner server to the client computer, column 16, lines 55-65.

The Office Action also states that "scanner communication means" recited in claim 6 corresponds to the server protocol encoder/decoder 132 of the scanner server 130. But, the server protocol encoder/decoder 132 does not receive an instruction command to the scanner device, that instruction is issued by a control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means which is a member of claimed invention.

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Notice that commands and information are transmitted between the client computer and the scanner server using protocol packets and further notice number 482, Fig. 8D, where a get file command is being transmitted from the client to the server.

The Office Action also states that "the different transmission categories" recited in claimed invention is disclosed by referring Fig. 10 of Lo. Fig. 10, however, merely indicates a window for setting scanning parameters, but does not indicate a destination to which scanned image data is transmitted. Accordingly, Lo clearly fails to teach or suggest inputting an instruction designating plural destinations, in which different transmission categories are included, for data received from said scanner device.

Notice in Fig. 11 three machine names such as John, Robin, and Henry, and Fig. 15 illustrating an image of a screen display at the scanner server which allows a user to select which computer is to receive the scanner image file.

/King Y. Poon/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625